This may occur with a young mother with an insecure relationship with the father or a child that is not her husband's. Also, a poor subsistence situation may inspire a woman to neglect or kill her infant. From the confidences expressed, there have occurred about five cases of infanticide over the last ten years. Aside from these measures, some women have expressed desires to limit the number of children they produce but profess a lack of knowledge on how to do so. With every fertile woman approaching the fulfillment of a potential to reproduce twelve to thirteen children, the implications for accelerating population growth are apparent. Also, with medical attention and other government assistance, the number of children who survive has increased.

Over the last forty years, the reproductive pattern of the Upper Barama River Carib population seems to have responded to changes in economic conditions. There is no evidence to demonstrate that this population was ever in any long period of equilibrium with regard to its size, or well regulated by cultural practices to maintain it below any direct relationship to fluctuations in local food resources. On the contrary, it appears that this population previously underwent conditions of famine from time to time. King (1968:16) reports a drought for Guyana every thirteen to fourteen years. Although there are no direct records kept for the Upper Barama River area, there are indications of periodic local food shortages. In the six years previous to the establishment of development programs at Baramita Air Strip, the Government was called upon twice to send relief food packages to the Caribs not directly involved in mining. However, by this time, the total population was influenced by the mining